

TAMPA BAY SYMPHONY
MARK SFORZINI • MUSIC DIRECTOR

**SPRING 2025
SCHEHERAZADE!**

2024-2025
International
Composition
Competition Winner

Clarinet Concerto (1st mvmt)
Carl Nielsen
Dylan Addonizio, Clarinet
Jack Holler Young
Artist Competition Winner

Scheherazade
Symphonic Suite
Op. 35 - Rimsky-
Korsakov

SUN, MAY 4, 2025, 2:30 PM
FERGUSON HALL, STRAZ CENTER, TAMPA
FRI, MAY 9, 2025, 8 PM
NEW TAMPA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, TAMPA
SUN, MAY 11, 2025, 2:30 PM
PALLADIUM THEATER, ST. PETERSBURG

The Tampa Bay Symphony is an all volunteer, 80 plus member, full orchestra. Every year they provide 4 full performances of classical music. They perform at the Palladium theater in St. Petersburg FL, but also in the new Tampa Performing Arts Center as well as Ferguson Hall at the Straz center in Tampa.

Whatever it was don't let it keep you from coming to one of these performances. You will not regret buying a season ticket and seeing each performance. The Symphony is an absolute delight.

[illegible]



I cannot say enough about the conductor of this orchestra . Maestro Mark Sforzini. He is currently on its 13th season as the music director of the Tampa Bay Symphony. He has a long history with Florida music and we are truly privileged to have him so close at hand.

I have told him directly that his style and personal approach to classical music has made it interesting for me , a person without any background in this genre. If you are like me and have never gone or appreciated classical music then this Symphony could be your entry into a very enjoyable art form .





Each performance begins with an introduction of the band and of the musical score. The program that is produced also has historical information on the piece, the makeup of the orchestra and the other marketing information.

For me what I look forward to is the Maestro's explanation of the piece. It really makes all the difference especially for someone with no background in music. I like to read the program and then wait for the maestro to explain the movement before the performance

Each movement begins with an introduction of the band and an explanation of the current state of affairs for the all volunteer orchestra. This is the part of the presentation which could make eyes roll over, but it's important.

This orchestra is an all volunteer ensemble and it generates costs when it performs and practices for its presentations. These venues, the utilities and other expenses are not donated. So, the orchestra gently pleads with all of us to provide donations. I do what I can and I am recognized in the program. If they recognize me with my measly contributions anyone can give and be noticed; if that is what it takes!.





The performances begin right on time and The first violin has the honor of marshaling and tuning the ensemble. The orchestra at this point is busily preparing for the performance.

It's hard to understand that we have more than 80 musicians with a couple of dozen different instruments marshalled together . This genre is extremely complex and to perform at their level takes a great deal of practice and competence.





Seating is by reservation for the performances. The costs are in keeping with the location and entry is reasonable by any standard of comparison. The orchestra website will have pricing, but the quality of the performance for the price you pay is excellent. We are very fortunate to have this caliber of music it's such an accessible amount.





The theater is planning a \$10 million renovation program. New acoustical surfaces as well as seating will be installed. The seats that are in place now date from the mid 20th century and if you look at the bottom of the cushion seat frame there is a hat rack for men. So, many of these features will be soon updated in the hall will be completely renovated.





Plan on at least two hours for each performance. Today we had a world premiere performance of a competition that was held by the Symphony. From beginning to end it was 2 ½ hours and I can honestly tell you it flew by.





The lobby has the ticket window , restrooms as well as a cash bar for wine, beer and drinks. The entryway is inviting with beautifully preserved architectural features . It's wonderful to have this type of venue so well preserved in the community.





We were honored tonight to have the international debut of a piece of classical music. Now, this doesn't happen every day. This was the result of an international competition that the Symphony had in which over 40 musicians competed.

We were privileged today to have the composer for the winning piece present. She gave a short presentation and then accepted a well deserved round of applause.

The piece was entitled , the Tale of Shahrzad, a Journey of Love. It was composed by Inbal Cohen-Rasner from Haifa, Israel and arranged by Amit Poznansky. The competition was arranged with the criteria that the piece had to be inspired by Nikolai Rimsky Korsakov's classic Shahrzad .

The piece was beautifully done and seamlessly compatible with Korsakov's masterpiece. The composer was greeted with a rousing standing ovation. I was fortunate enough to sit right next to her. I ask, where else could this happen?





By the time the music ended it was well over 2 hours and 30 minutes of live performance. I can honestly tell you that it did not feel even like half that amount of time. There is one intermission roughly at the midpoint of the performance.

Without belaboring the point if you appreciate classical music by all means participate. But, if you have never listened or enjoyed classical music I would highly recommend this ensemble. This orchestra is passionate about its work and the venue in which it plays is small and so very intimate. You can hear larger orchestras in massive halls, pay two or three times the price and not be satisfied; lost in the crowd. The Palladium and the Tampa Bay Symphony are a perfect blend and a community delight.